



OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ADVISORY WORKGROUP (ORVAW)

Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2024

1 - 3 p.m.

Delta Township Hall

Welcome – Roll Call

PRESENT FOR THE OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ADVISORY
WORKGROUP:

- Bob Meyers, Chair (virtual)
- Keith Lynch, Vice Chair (virtual)
- James Hunt
- Mike Maves (absent)
- Jarrod Biebel (virtual)
- Trevor Hoffer (absent)

PRESENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF

Tim Novak, Lee Maynard, Scott Slavin, Rob Katona, Ron Yesney, Blake Gingrich, Jessica Holley-Roehrs, Peter Costa, Scott Pratt, Greg Kinser, Cpl. Michael Hearn, Heather Durocher, Nicole Hunt, Annalisa Centofanti, Nick Edington (USFS), Doug Rich, Michelle Ballard, Bobbi Audette

Meeting minutes

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Motion was made by Keith Lynch to approve the February 14, 2024 minutes, Jarrod Biebel seconded, with all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jarrod Biebel to approve the May 1 agenda, seconded by Keith Lynch, with all in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Craig

Mr. Craig is President of the Great Lakes 4-Wheel Drive Association (GL4WDA). Tom talked about issues he encountered at Silver Lake Sand Dunes State Park during ranger training. The trucks that are being used for patrol and emergency response are dated (2007, 2011, 2013, & 2015) vehicles and are not dependable as a first responder vehicle. Tom is wondering if ORV Program funds can be used to purchase newer vehicles.

Tim Novak, DNR, will reach out to the Silver Lake State Park supervisor to discuss his concerns and see if there is any way to improve the situation.

Paul Mulder

Mr. Mulder brought an incident, which occurred in Leota, and documented on YouTube to the workgroup's attention. Paul also forwarded the YouTube link to DNR staff and Law Enforcement Division (LED) for review and possible investigation. Paul would like to see a higher fine carried out when this type of land resource destruction happens.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

DNR INSURANCE – COMPETITIVE RACE

Tim Novak, DNR

An increase in insurance is required for high-risk events including competitive bike races or time competitive motorized events. The required increase went from \$2M to \$3M in liability coverage. This does not change for group rides. Nicole Hunt, DNR mentioned this has been in place for over a year now and possible more awareness is being made recently. Bob Meyers asked if there are any specific reasoning for the increase. Nicole stated the Department is required to follow insurance recommendation and guidelines set by the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB) which is noted in part to the Department Land Use policy and aligns with industry standards. Risk determination is based on event type and score from the DNR staff reviewer and will determine level of use for the property. Volunteering is considered low risk. Non-competitive events will require \$500K and \$1M aggregate.

MOTORIZED EVENT PERMITS/PROCESS – KNOWN CHALLENGES

Bob Meyers

Bob noted some challenges with the current motorized event permit process, below.

- Process is lengthy
- Permits are not provided in enough time prior to the event start date
- More clarity about groups of 20 people

Greg Kinser, DNR, added the process time includes management review by divisions who have invested interest in the land resources being used. Greg suggests applying at a minimum of 60 days in advance of the event start date.

Nicole Hunt informed the workgroup that organized motorized events which has 20 or more individuals are required to submit a Wheeled Motorized Vehicle Activity Notification to the Department prior to the start date. The Department works with user groups reviewing the conditions upon which an event permit will be required. The organizer of an event is required to communicate with the Department to determine if a use permit is necessary. Even if a permit is not needed, the communication with the Department is still needs to take place.

Keith Lynch added he can see the situation where an unplanned group of 20 or more people will gather by running into each other while riding on the trails. This type of situation needs more clarity.

RIDE RIGHT SIGN – “DID YOU KNOW”

Ron Yesney, DNR

The DNR Ride Right campaign is working on ORV "Did you Know" literature to help users understand what ORV trail permits pays for. This campaign will be advertised every year to benefit education for the public. Currently, staff is working on developing a graphic.

Bullet Points that are being considered for the literature, below.

Did You Know!

What a Trail Permit Pays For:

1. ORV Damage Restoration
2. ORV Trail Brushing
3. ORV Trail Signing
4. ORV Trail Grading
5. ORV Law Enforcement
6. ORV Equipment for Clubs
7. ORV Trail Easements
8. Beaver Control on ORV Trails
9. Construction on Bridges, Culverts, and Boardwalks
10. Insurance for ORV Clubs
11. \$36.25 pay for X miles of Trail Grading

Feedback from committee:

*Clarify insurance reimbursement

*Remove ORV equipment

- *Use grant sponsor instead of clubs
- *Add education and training

UPDATES

USFS UPDATE

Nick Edington is the new program manager with the USFS and is looking forward to working with DNR staff and committee members.

LED UPDATE

Cpl. Michael Hearn, LED

Following up on the hype around a YouTube video that was shared a few months back documenting intentional land resource damage on state trails. With the diligent work in Otsego County, an arrest warrant was served and is now in the hands of Otsego County Court system. At the last ORVAW meeting, a discussion about having youth participate in an in-person safety field day was a topic. After LED internal discussions and at the moment, LED does not have the resources for this and not it is believed not feasible for the participants to travel a long distance to complete one field day. More counties are continuing to open public roads to ORV use, most recently in the lower half of the L.P.

ORV PRE-SEASON MEETING SUMMARY

Ron Yesney, DNR

The Upper Peninsula hosted 3 ORV pre-season meetings (Western U.P., Central U.P., and Eastern U.P.). Marquette had snowstorm which forced the meeting to be virtual. All 3 meetings had good attendance with ORV clubs and sponsors, and DNR staff in attendance. Survey results indicated to keep meetings on a weeknight and spread the regions out. These meetings are a great opportunity to network and collaborate.

Greg Kinser, DNR, echoed Ron's comments regarding the ORV pre-season meetings held in the Lower Peninsula.

LOWER PENINSULA ALPHA SYSTEM EXPANSION UPDATE

Greg Kinser, DNR

DNR staff is still finalizing details and working internally on what this expansion will look like.

ORVAW MISSIONS AND GOALS

Tim Novak, DNR

DNR trails staff is working with the Michigan Trails Advisory Council (MTAC) to establish trails program goals that will align with the Trails 10-year Strategic Plan. Once determined these goals will be passed down to the subcommittees to talk about individual goals and missions for committee members. This will take some time to create and organize. Bob Meyers asked if this will

be a framework or set goals. MTAC will have set goals and subcommittees will have a framework to assist with MTAC's missions and goals.

ORV EQUIPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE – NEXT STEPS

Scott Slavin, DNR

Next step is to set up recurring meetings and determine the DNR finance staff person for representation.

2024 MEETING DATES

- August 7 – Ram Center Roscommon
- September 25-26 / Trails Summit - Lansing
- October 30 – Grayling Twp. Hall

ROUND ROBIN/CLOSING

James Hunt

Clare and Mackinaw Bridge welcome centers requested an ORV map display, possibly 11x17, of the ORV trail system. James will reach out to Greg Kinser to discuss further.

Jarrod Biebel requested at the next ORVAW meeting to revisit the vehicle lighting topic and rules about lighting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.



WHEELED MOTORIZED VEHICLE (WMV) ACTIVITY NOTIFICATION

Issued under authority of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451, P. A. of 1994, as amended. Please also reference the [State Land Use Rules](#), R299.921 – R299.933. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Act is a misdemeanor and may result in fines and/or imprisonment.

APPLICANT: When a Wheeled Motorized Vehicle (WMV) Activity has 20 or more participants and/or a fee or donation is required for participation, notification of the activity to the Department is required. This notification allows the Department to review the activity and determine whether an event permit is required based upon the motorized event criteria. Applicant shall complete and submit this activity notification to the Department land manager where the activity will be located. Locations and addresses are located on page 2. Notification should be submitted at least **sixty (60) days** prior to the activity to be reviewed by relevant staff. If it is determined a permit is necessary, this additional time will be necessary.

APPLICANT/ORGANIZATION INFORMATION	
Name of Applicant	Group/Organization
Address, City, State, ZIP Code	
Telephone Number	Email Address

ACTIVITY CONTACT INFORMATION		
Name of on-site Contact Person (if different than applicant)	Onsite Mobile Number	
Contact Person's Address, City, State, ZIP Code		
Date(s) of Activity	Start & End Time(s) of Activity	
Expected Number of Participants	Expected Number of Vehicles	Is a fee or donation required? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Proposed Types of use: <input type="checkbox"/> Designated ORV Trail or Route <input type="checkbox"/> State Forest Roads <input type="checkbox"/> State Forest Land <input type="checkbox"/> Other Land or Facilities:		
Route Information: Provide information as applicable below and attach pdf map, digital shapefile, or other item displaying area of use. Tip: visit Michigan.gov/OrvInfo for maps)		
<input type="checkbox"/> County(s): _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Designated Trail Name(s): _____		
Brief description of activity:		

CERTIFICATION (APPLICANT: Read all pages before certification and signature.)	
<i>I hereby certify that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the conditions contained on page 2, governing this notice in the conduct of the operations under this notice, and that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.</i>	
Applicant Signature	Date

DNR USE ONLY	
If necessary, staff should refer to form R1138-3 Department Review Recommendations to conduct a Department Review.	
DEPARTMENT DECISION: <input type="checkbox"/> Permit Required <input type="checkbox"/> Permit Not Required	
Department Comments	
Department Representative Signature	Date

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

This activity notification is subject to the following conditions and requirements.

1. A Department reviewed notification form shall be available for inspection when a User(s) is operating on State-owned land.
2. User(s) shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and codes (link to which are found below) and will obtain any Permits necessary in connection with the use of the state-owned land if determined necessary. Including obtaining all applicable registrations, licenses, or entrance passes required for ORVs participation in this activity under authority of Part 811 Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended.
 - [Land Use Orders of the Director](#)
 - [State Land Use Rules](#)
 - [Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451](#)
3. User(s) agrees to comply with all requirements herein.
4. User(s) shall reimburse the Department for any repairs to the state-owned land resulting from damage and/or any waste, litter or injury. There shall not be any disturbance to survey corners and associated witness trees.
5. All User(s) must have Forest Service approved spark arrestor.
6. All User(s) shall have a copy of the Department executed notification (pg.1) on them during the activity.
7. Notification does not authorize any special privileges regarding use of state-owned land. Notification will be processed in the order of submission. If another user has provided notification or submitted a use permit for use of these lands on one or more of the same dates, the notification request will be subject to review for compatibility.
8. **LIABILITY** – User(s) hereby releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all liability to User, its officers, employees and agents, for all losses, injury, death or damage, and any claims or demands thereto, on account of injury to person or property, or resulting in death of User, its officers, employees or agents, in reference to the activities reviewed by this notification.
9. **INDEMNIFICATION** – User(s) hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and save harmless, the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all claims and demands, for all loss, injury, death or damage, that any person or entity may have or make, in any manner, arising out of any occurrence related to (1) the activities reviewed under this notification; and (2) the use or occupancy of the state-owned land which are the subject of this notification by the User, its employees, contractors, or its authorized representatives.
10. **PENALTY** – Any modifications to the activities described within the notification will require additional Department review. The Department reserves the right to require a permit if at any time the activity deviates from the description of the activities contained within the executed notification (pg.1).

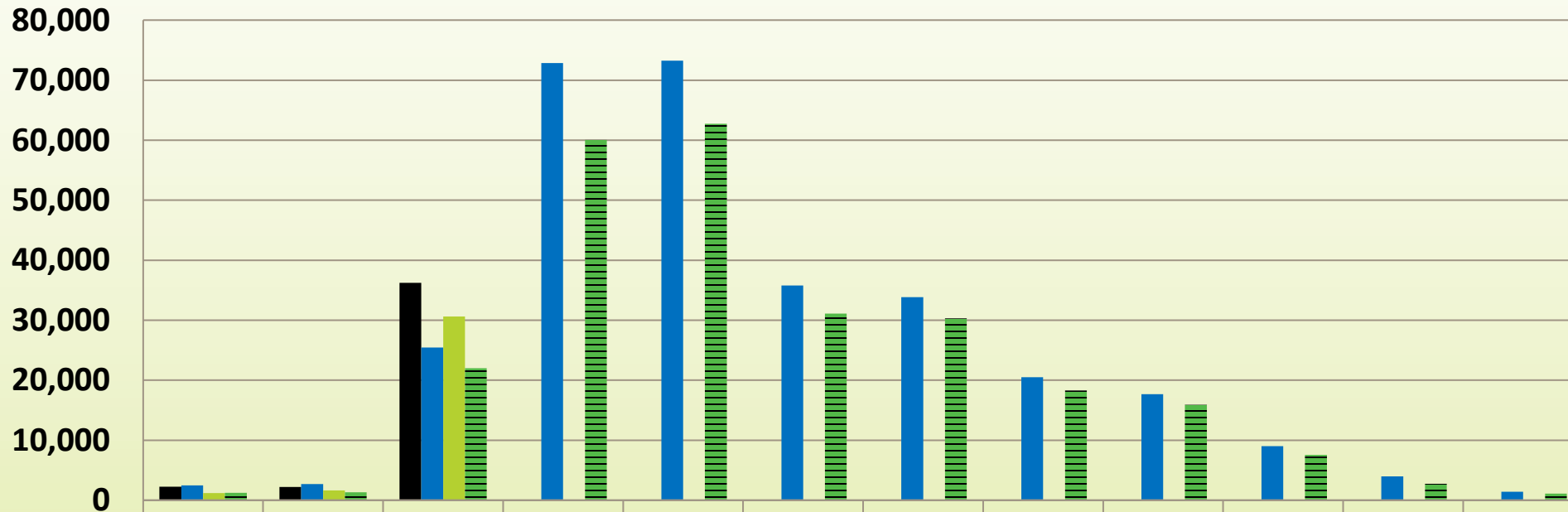
Michigan Department of Natural Resources District Offices, and the Counties under District jurisdiction

COUNTIES		DISTRICTS		COUNTIES		DISTRICTS	
Baraga Delta Dickinson Gogebic Houghton Iron	Keweenaw Marquette Menominee Ontonagon	MARQUETTE CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 1990 US-41 SOUTH MARQUETTE MI 49855 TELEPHONE (906) 228-6561		Bay Gratiot Huron Isabella Midland	Montcalm Saginaw Sanilac Tuscola	BAY CITY CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 3580 STATE PARK DRIVE BAY CITY MI 48706 TELEPHONE (989) 684-9141	
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ORV License Sales

Calendar Year Through March



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
■ ORV 2024	2,243	2,215	36,251									
■ ORV 2023	2,493	2,694	25,455	72,835	73,256	35,808	33,828	20,491	17,665	9,015	3,991	1,398
■ Trail 2024	1,174	1,617	30,602									
■ Trail 2023	1,254	1,329	22,000	60,038	62,721	31,124	30,305	18,302	15,927	7,578	2,738	1,104